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DHEC Health Advisory

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10277-DHA-02-01-2013-DOXY

**Information for Clinicians:
Doxycycline Hyclate (PO formulation) Shortage**

Background

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported a shortage of a form of doxycycline (Doxycycline Hyclate) on January 18, 2013. This is the oral form and the shortage does not apply to intravenous doxycycline.

Use of Doxycycline Hyclate (PO formulation) for Rickettsial Infections

- Doxycycline is the recommended therapy for the treatment of suspected rickettsial infections (including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis) in patients of all ages (including children less than 7 years of age).
- Rapid, empiric treatment is essential to prevent severe morbidity and mortality, and delay in treatment while waiting for test results or evidence of a worsening condition is highly contraindicated.
- While chloramphenicol is sometimes suggested as a possible treatment alternative, its use to treat rickettsial infections is associated with a significantly higher risk of fatal outcome and is not recommended.
- Broad-spectrum antibiotics, including fluoroquinolones, are ineffective in treating rickettsial infections.
- Given the lack of alternative therapies to treat rickettsial infections, reserving Doxycycline Hyclate stores for these patients might be warranted in areas where doxycycline shortages are anticipated.

Use of Doxycycline Hyclate (PO formulation) for other conditions

- For many indications, including malaria prophylaxis and treatment of certain STDs, doxycycline is just one of several options available for patients. Therefore, looking at alternative therapies for these conditions is recommended.
- Doxycycline Hyclate is frequently used for soft tissue infections caused by Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). It is advised to look for alternative PO therapies for MRSA soft tissue infections during this shortage of Doxycycline Hyclate.

For Additional Information

- FDA Drug Shortage Website
 - <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314739.htm>)
- American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP)
 - www.ashp.org/DrugShortages/Current/
- Projected return to availability is uncertain, but may occur as early as mid-February 2013, based on information provided by FDA.

- If you experience difficulties accessing doxycycline for treatment of rickettsial infections, please alert the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch at 404-639-1076 (8:30-4:00 EST) or 770-488-7100 (after hours).

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of diseases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2013 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/reportables.htm>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2013

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 601-7051

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 803-458-1847

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 268-5833
Fax: (803) 268-5814
Nights / Weekends: (803) 535-9265

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

222 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 645-8167

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights/Weekends: (843) 340-4754

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0047
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 441-1091
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-843-441-1091

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.